



Biden launches 2020 bid warning 'soul' of America at stake

By STEVE PEOPLES and THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring the "soul of this nation" at stake, former Vice President Joe Biden pushed into the crowded 2020 presidential contest Thursday and quickly sparked a fierce debate over the direction of the modern-day Democratic Party. Ignoring the political noise in his own party, Biden aimed directly at Donald Trump in an announcement video seizing on the Republican president's response to the deadly clash between white supremacists and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, two years ago.

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Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden arrives at the Wilmington train station Thursday April 25, 2019 in Wilmington, Delaware.
Associated Press



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Biden launches 2020 bid warning 'soul' of America at stake

Continued from Front

That was the spur for him to launch a third presidential bid, Biden said, noting Trump's comments that there were some "very fine people" on both sides of the violent encounter, which left one woman dead. "We are in the battle for

the soul of this nation," Biden declared. "If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen." Yet Biden will get a chance to take on Trump only if he survives a Democratic field



Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden arrives at the Wilmington train station Thursday April 25, 2019 in Wilmington, Delaware.

Associated Press

that now spans at least 20 contenders. And his party's more liberal wing was far from welcoming in the hours immediately after he declared his candidacy. Justice Democrats, a group created from the remnants of Bernie Sanders' failed 2016 campaign, came out against Biden on Thursday and spent much of the day assailing him on social media. He's been taking steps in recent weeks to clean up perceived missteps from his long record in elected office, including his role as a senator in allowing sexual harassment accuser Anita Hill to be grilled by an all-male committee during Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court confirmation hearings. A campaign aide said

Biden has privately contacted Hill to share "his regret for what she endured and his admiration for everything she has done to change the culture around sexual harassment in this country." But The New York Times reported Thursday that Hill said in an interview she was deeply unsatisfied and unconvinced by his apology. Biden has also highlighted his role in authoring the Violence Against Women Act nearly three decades ago, legislation that is credited with reducing domestic violence nationwide. Still, the 76-year-old Scranton, Pennsylvania, native's political liabilities are many. He would be the oldest person ever elected president — Trump was 70 in 2016 — even as his party embraces

a new generation of diversity. He has yet to outline his positions on issues defining the 2020 Democratic primary, most notably "Medicare for All," the universal health care plan authored by Sanders that has been embraced in one form or another by virtually the entire Democratic field. Biden is betting that his working-class appeal and ties to Barack Obama's presidency will help him win over skeptics. He quickly racked up endorsements Thursday morning, becoming the first Democrat running for president with the backing of more than one U.S. senator. Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., who previously served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said he had urged the former vice president to run and highlighted Biden's potential electability when asked to assess African Americans' feelings. "Black voters are saying the same thing that white Democrats are saying: We can't afford to lose. That is a big message. That's a big motivator," Richmond said. Obama has so far declined to endorse Biden, however, and several former Obama aides are now working for other candidates. Biden addressed Obama's position as he briefly faced reporters in Delaware on Thursday. □

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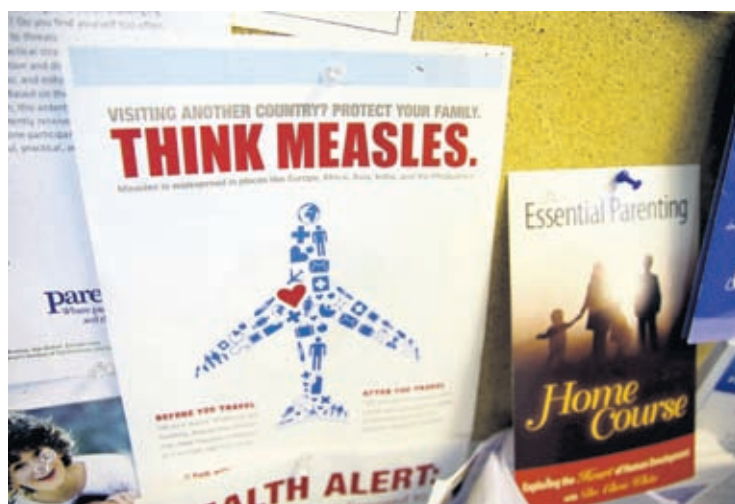
Quarantines at 2 L.A. universities amid U.S. measles outbreak

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of students and staff at two Los Angeles universities have been placed under quarantine because they may have been exposed to measles and either have not been vaccinated or cannot verify that they are immune, officials said Thursday.

The order issued late Wednesday in connection with the University of California and Cal State University requires that affected people stay home, avoid contact with others and notify authorities if they develop measles symptoms. Los Angeles County public health officials issued quarantines of 24 to 48 hours until proof of immunity is established, according to a statement from UCLA. Some people may need to be quarantined for up to a week.

"Please be assured that



In this Feb. 6, 2015, file photo, a flyer educating parents about measles is displayed on a bulletin board at a pediatrics clinic in Greenbrae, Calif.

we have the resources we need for prevention and treatment, and that we are working very closely with local public health officials on the matter," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block in the statement.

Measles in the United States has climbed to its highest level in 25 years, closing in on 700 cases this year in a resurgence largely attrib-

uted to misinformation that is turning parents against vaccines.

Roughly three-quarters of this year's illnesses have been in New York state.

A UCLA student who was diagnosed with measles possibly exposed 500 people on campus to measles in early April, according to a statement from the school. Of those people, 119 stu-

dents and eight faculty members had not provided medical records by Wednesday showing that they were immune. By Thursday afternoon, 43 of them had been released after proving they had been vaccinated.

Meanwhile at Cal State, a person infected with measles visited a library and possibly encountered hundreds of employees, some of whom were students. One hundred ninety-eight of them could not provide their immunization records, according to a statement from the Cal State. Health officials determined that there is "no known current risk related to measles at the library at this time," Cal State said in its statement.

The orders come as a small outbreak of measles occurs in Los Angeles County involving five confirmed cases linked to overseas travel. The state recorded 38 mea-

sles cases as of Thursday; there were 11 around the same time last year, said Dr. Karen Smith, director of the California Department of Public Health.

The state typically sees fewer than two dozen cases a year, she said.

This year, California's cases stretch across 11 counties and affect patients from 5 months old to 55.

More than 76% of patients were not vaccinated or did not receive the recommended two doses of vaccine, Smith said.

Fourteen of those infected had traveled overseas to countries including Philippines, Thailand, India and Ukraine.

Measles in most people causes fever, runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body.

However, a small fraction of those infected can suffer complications such as pneumonia and a dangerous swelling of the brain. □



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Trump administration reevaluating offshore drilling plans

By **MATTHEW DALY AND ELLEN KNICKMEYER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said Thursday it is reevaluating its controversial plan to sharply expand offshore drilling as it responds to a court ruling that blocked oil and gas development off Alaska and parts of the Atlantic.

Governors and lawmakers from both Republican- and Democratic-led states have strongly opposed the expanded drilling. And a federal judge last month ruled against President Donald Trump's executive order to open the Arctic and parts of the Atlantic to broader oil and gas development, saying Trump had exceeded his authority.



In this July 16, 2017, file photo, ice is broken up by the passing of the Finnish icebreaker MSV Nordica as it sails through the Beaufort Sea off the coast of Alaska.

But Randall Luthi, head of the National Ocean Industries Association trade group, urged against a "hard stop" in administration planning on expanded offshore drilling. "What cannot be delayed ... is the importance of domestic production to meet the growing demand for affordable, reliable American energy," he said.

The Trump administration announced a new five-year plan last year that would open up 90 percent of U.S. offshore reserves to development by private companies. Then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said it would promote responsible energy development, boost jobs and pay for coastal conservation efforts.

The plan calls for expanded drilling in the Arctic and off the Atlantic coast and would open up waters off California for the first time in more than three decades. Drilling would be allowed from Florida to Maine in areas that have been blocked for decades.

Industry groups said the plan would encourage economic growth and create thousands of jobs, while environmental groups denounced the plan, saying it would cause severe harm to America's oceans, coastal economies, public health and marine life.

The plan drew bipartisan criticism in Congress, as lawmakers in coastal states said oil drilling off the coast could put their economy, environment and marine life at risk.

Governors from coastal states asked to be removed from the plan, but Interior officials said they were pressing forward even as they promised to take local concerns into consideration.

Associated Press

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt told The Wall Street Journal on Thursday that the legal challenges may be "discombobulating" to the administration's overall drilling plans. Bernhardt says the administration may have to wait for the challenges to fully play out in court.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "will carefully consider all public input received, including comments from governors of affected states, before making final decisions" on expanded drilling off the country's coasts, Block added.

Environmental groups welcomed what they said amounted to a delay in the administration's coastal drilling expansion plans. Collin O'Mara of the National Wildlife Federation said the administration "needs to go one step further and fully and permanently scrap its plan to open our coasts to unfettered offshore drilling."

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ARUBATODAY**SAVE TIME
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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Illinois child welfare system under fire after boy's death**By **DON BABWIN and JOHN O'CONNOR****Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP)—Disturbing details emerged Thursday of the torture authorities say preceded the beating death of a 5-year-old Illinois boy who had extensive contact with child welfare workers, escalating scrutiny of a state agency already being reviewed because of the recent deaths of two other children.

Court documents allege Andrew "AJ" Freund's parents killed him by beating him and subjecting him to long, cold showers.

An autopsy determined the boy died from blunt force trauma to his head and had been struck multiple times.

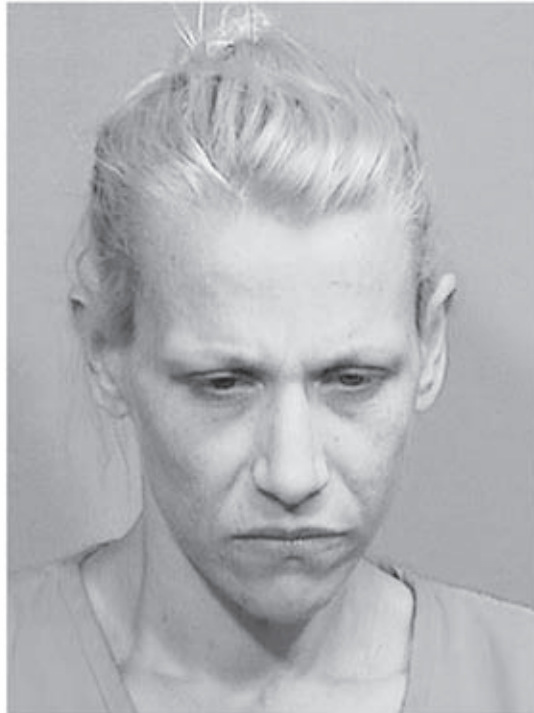
His plastic-wrapped body was found Wednesday in a shallow grave a few miles from the family's home in Crystal Lake, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Chicago. Child welfare workers had been called repeatedly to the dilapidated and filthy house that stunk of dog feces.

Details of the gruesome death raised the question: Why did those workers not leave with the boy?

"This agency, there is no direction, no mission and it certainly has not been protecting children," said state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, a Chicago Democrat who chairs the House Adoption and Child Welfare Committee.

Marc D. Smith, the new director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, will appear before lawmakers Friday.

The child's parents, 36-year-old Joann Cunningham and 60-year-old Andrew Freund Sr., appeared in court Thursday on first-degree murder and other charges. A judge ordered



This combination of undated photos provided by the McHenry County Sheriff's Department in Woodstock, Ill., on Thursday, April 25, 2019 shows JoAnn Cunningham, left, and Andrew Freund Sr.
Associated Press

both held in jail on \$5 million bail.

Prosecutors read charging documents that alleged the boy was killed three days before his parents reported him missing last Thursday. The details fueled concern about how many other children could face the same kind of danger that "AJ" did in his short life.

"How many AJ's are out there right now that we don't know about?" asked Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a Chicago Democrat, a member of the committee Feigenholtz chairs.

Birth tests revealed the boy had opiates in his bloodstream, the first of many troubling signals about danger to A.J. and his little brother that should have been red flags for an agency whose job it is to protect children, Feigenholtz said.

"I got the sense from what I read that the cops were essentially begging (DCFS) to take the child," said Feigenholtz, referring to the media reports that DCFS in 2018 alone visited the house to

investigate allegations of neglect and determined those allegations unfounded. "There were so many calls made, so many signs of trouble and still nothing was done."

She said the agency's leadership has been a revolving door, with 13 directors since 2003 — many of them interim.

Another concern stems from the tough financial situation the state has found itself in for years.

"We have huge budgetary problems and this is a by-product of not taking care of the real issues," said Rep. Blaine Wilhour, a Beecher City Republican. "These are the core services that are being hollowed out (and) the most vulnerable people are the ones that end up getting hurt."

Then there are questions about whether it is too difficult for child welfare workers to remove children from their homes, and too easy for parents to have their children returned to them. Those questions were raised

in two recent cases that prompted Gov. J.B. Pritzker to order an independent review of DCFS.

In February, a Decatur woman pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder charges after her 2-year-old daughter died from starvation and deprivation. In that instance, the child was taken from her mother last year during a DCFS

child abuse investigation and placed in foster care but returned to the mother last August.

In another case, an autopsy last month found a 2-year-old Chicago boy had bruises and old rib fractures, but records show DCFS never reported the injuries despite making numerous visits.

The research center Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago is expected next month to issue what Pritzker called "actionable recommendations" into how the DCFS's Intact Family Services Unit functions.

But Chapin Hall has shared one conclusion in a press release: "With the lowest foster care entry rate in the nation, Illinois has a high threshold for child removal."

Feigenholtz said lawmakers have to answer the question of whether the threshold for child removal is too high or whether the workers are "not aware of them or are poorly trained."

"I think we all have a great deal of questions, but I will tell you this that this has to end," she said. "It has to be fixed." □

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Some horse advocates buck at new plan to save wild mustangs

By **SCOTT SONNER**
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Animal welfare groups have reached a milestone agreement with ranching interests they say would save wild mustangs from slaughter but the compromise has opened a nasty split among horse protection advocates.

The Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals say their proposal backed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation would eliminate the threat of slaughter for thousands of free-roaming horses primarily by spending millions of dollars on expanding fertility controls on the range.

As part of the deal presented to the Bureau of Land Management, they're willing to drop long-held opposition to controversial roundups of the horses — fighting words for the largest mustang advocacy groups that have been in court for years defending the animals' ability to forage with cattle and sheep in 10 western states.

The unprecedented alliance unveiled this week has ignited fierce opposition from the American Wild Horse Campaign and Friends of Animals, which currently is leading a legal challenge to Forest Service efforts that could for the first time make mustangs recently rounded up along the California-Nevada border available for purchase for slaughter.



In this Dec. 13, 2017 file photo wild horses gather in a pasture at sunset at the Mowdy Ranch Ecosanctuary near Coalgate, Okla.

"The groups promoting this plan have been co-opted into supporting the livestock industry's agenda for wild horses by the BLM's vague promise to utilize undefined 'population growth suppression' methods," including surgical sterilization, the Campaign said. "By mandating the removal of a startling 15,000 to 20,000 wild horses a year, the plan will result in the reduction of America's wild herds to extinction levels."

"It's a sellout," added Laura Leigh, who has monitored roundups for nearly 20 years and heads the Nevada-based Wild Horse Education.

Nancy Perry, ASPCA's senior vice president, acknowledges they're in "frightening territory" with a "bold approach that no

one has taken so far."

"Not every advocate wants to engage with or work with those that they have been in battle with over the years," she told The Associated Press. "But BLM's current policies are ineffective. If they continue on the road they're on now, it means disaster."

In addition to the cattlemen's powerful lobbying arm, the package has the support of the Society for Range Management, Utah's governor and rural county commissions in Utah and Nevada.

"After years of all of us being in our bunkers on this issue, this proposal represents some real common ground among stakeholders that have never appeared on the same document before," said Ethan

Lane, senior executive director of federal lands for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and its Public Lands Council.

"The Humane Society and ASPCA have a view that what my members do to put food on their tables is inherently bad. For us to be able to come together and find some common ground on this is significant," he said.

Others who've bought in include the American Mustang Foundation and the California-based Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

"We need to work together with other stakeholders who have diverse interests," Return to Freedom President Neda DeMayo said.

Rebecca Goldrick of the APSCA said they're seek-

ing a \$50 million increase in BLM's \$80 million annual horse budget but that it ultimately would save money as herds shrink.

BLM estimated 83,000 wild horses and burros were roaming public rangelands last year, more than three times what the agency says the land can support. Another 50,000 that have been removed from the range in recent years were in holding facilities at an annual cost of about \$50 million.

BLM spokesman Derrick Henry said the development was encouraging.

"We welcome their ideas and support, and are committed to working together with the public to identify an effective and sustainable strategy for addressing chronic overpopulation," he said.

Horse advocates have argued the animals must be permitted to roam the range in federally protected management areas established under the Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. They say BLM's population quotas are often outdated and lack scientific data to support roundups to cull herd sizes. The new proposal advocates roundups in densely populated areas that cannot sustain large numbers of animals. It also would move horses currently in short-term holding pens to larger "cost effective, humane" pastures with a "free-roaming environment," and provide new handling and training of horses they say would boost adoption rates. □

Judge gives U.S. 6 months to identify children split at border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The federal government has six months to identify potentially thousands of children who were separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border early in President Donald Trump's term, a judge said Thursday.

Trump administration officials said they had a goal of six months but opposed any deadline, saying it could take as long as two years to reunite children with their parents.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw said he would consider an extension past six months but that he wanted to establish a firm date.

"It is important for all government actors to have a timeframe, a deadline," he said. "You tend to stand on it."

The administration will review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children in custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018 — the day before Sabraw halted the general practice of separating families and ordered that children under government care at the time be reunited in 30 days.

More than 2,700 children had been separated when Sabraw issued his June order and they have largely been reunited. Then, in January, the internal watchdog for the U.S. Health and Human Services Department reported that thousands more children may have been split since summer 2017. The department's inspector general said the precise number was unknown.

Jonathan White, a commander of the U.S. Public Health Service and Health and Human Services' point person on family reunification, testified for about an hour on how he would

oversee the effort. After he spoke, the judge praised his continued involvement, calling him "a beacon of light." The administration will develop a statistical model within 12 weeks to search for factors most likely for separations. Those factors, detailed in an earlier court filing, include children under 5, younger children traveling without a sibling and those detained in the Border Patrol's El Paso, Texas, sector, where the administration ran a trial program that involved separating nearly 300 family members from July to November 2017.

On a parallel track, the administration will begin work immediately on identifying children who were separated after U.S. Customs and Border Protection introduced a tracking system in April 2018.

The government lacked tracking systems when the administration began a "zero tolerance" policy a year ago to criminally prosecute every adult who entered the country illegally from Mexico, sparking an international outcry when parents couldn't find their children.

Poor tracking before April 2018 and the fact that still-separated children are no longer in U.S. custody complicates the latest task.

The vast majority of separated children are released to relatives, but many are not parents. Of children released in the 2017 fiscal year, 49 percent went to parents, 41 percent to close relatives such as an aunt, uncle, grandparent or adult sibling and 10 percent to distant relatives, family friends and others.

White told the judge that six months was his "operational target" but that he's been wrong before and there were still lots of un-

knowns about the process. The American Civil Liberties Union, which sued over family separations, wanted the job completed in three months, which White said was unrealistic. The ACLU agreed Thursday to six months. □



In this Dec. 13, 2018, file photo, teen migrants walk in line inside the Tornillo detention camp in Tornillo, Texas.

Associated Press

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Macron offers tax cut to French workers to quell anger

By SYLVIE CORBET
LORI HINNANT

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron announced tax cuts for middle-class workers and plans for a more representative parliament Thursday as part of a promised response to the weekly yellow vest protests that damaged his presidency. In a nationally televised speech followed up by a news conference, the French leader also said France and Europe must



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech at the Elysee Palace Thursday, April 25, 2019 in Paris.

Associated Press

do more to fight illegal migration. Macron spoke to the nation from the presidential Elysée Palace after he convened nationwide meetings where communities could debate how to address economic concerns raised by the yellow vest movement, including high taxes, unemployment and stagnant wages.

He unveiled measures to boost pensions under 2,000 euros (\$ 2,226) and said he would propose an overhaul of France's retirement system during the summer. But he said the "best solution" for financial disparities is "to cut taxes for a maximum number of citizens and especially those who are working, especially the middle-class."

The president also vowed to introduce "deep changes" to France's system of democracy. One is easing the rules for organizing public referendums so people have another outlet for grievances besides the street protests that have convulsed the country for five months.

He pledged to reduce the number of lawmakers in parliament by about 30% and to change how seats are filled so the national legislature better reflects the diversity of France's political parties. France's parliamentary election system currently is designed to give the winning party a strong majority, putting smaller parties at a disadvantage.

But Macron warned that there comes a time for hard choices. He said he thinks illegal immigration is weighing on Europe. The European Union should be "strong" by both protecting its borders and taking in some asylum-seekers from countries where their lives are at risk.

"To be welcoming, you need to have a house. So we need borders, we need borders to be respected, we need rules," he said. In a move to counter the yellow vest movement's portrayal of him as elitist, Macron said he decided to do away with

France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the influential college that trains top civil servants and politicians. The centrist Macron, a former investment banker, is himself an ENA graduate. Macron apologized for some comments that were perceived as arrogant, such as his telling an unemployed man he could find a job if he "crosses the street" and advising a retiree not to complain.

"I may have given the impression to give orders all the time and be tough. Which I regret," he said.

At the same time, he said he would keep pushing pro-business policies opposed by labor unions and the yellow vest movement.

"I asked myself, 'Were we wrong?' I think the total opposite. I think the ongoing changes, the necessary changes we have to do in our country mustn't be stopped," Macron said. "They haven't been quick enough for some, not radical enough, not human enough."

Some activists who have been involved in the yellow vest movement said they were disappointed with Macron's response to their demands for economic relief for the country's working classes.

Paris region activist Thierry-Paul Valette tweeted after Macron outlined his proposals that the president spoke like "a supreme chief and doesn't seem to understand that he should show modesty."

Once-prominent yellow vest activist Ingrid Levavasseur, who scaled back her participation amid the movement's internal divisions and protest violence, told The Associated Press she found Macron's response "not at all satisfactory."

Levavasseur cautiously welcomed his proposed measures to decentralize decision-making but said the overall plan wasn't ambitious enough.

"The expectations are so enormous that it was bound to be disappointing," she said. □



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Party leader calls LGBT rights an imported threat to Poland

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP)

— The chairman of Poland's conservative ruling party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, has called the LGBT rights movement a foreign import that threatens the Polish nation.

Kaczynski, a member of parliament who wields tremendous influence as leader of the Law and Justice party, also said during a lecture on patriotism that "everyone must accept Christianity" in Poland and questioning the Roman Catholic Church is unpatriotic.

The positions Kaczynski expressed Wednesday in the central city of Wloclawek came as Poland's powerful Catholic Church is under scrutiny for child sex abuse by clergy and superiors who might have covered up for pedophile priests.

Poland also has two elections this year: the vote next month to elect the country's representatives to the European Union parliament and a national election in the fall.

With his remarks, Kaczynski seemed to be tapping into the belief held by some Poles that liberal values

have been forced on them as a result of Poland joining the EU 15 years ago.

Kaczynski's Law and Justice party won the last general election in 2015, the height of Europe's mass migration crisis. The party's campaign included portraying Muslim refugees as a threat to Poland.

In recent weeks, Law and Justice has described the LGBT rights movement as another danger to Polish families and children. LGBT rights have become increasingly visible as more Polish cities and towns hold gay pride parades, even places known as bastions of the church and conservative values.

Mirosława Makuchowska, from the group Campaign Against Homophobia, said she thinks the party chairman's anti-LGBT message was meant to distract attention from corruption scandals in the Catholic Church and in the Polish government.

"These are the same methods and same messages" used to demonize Muslim immigrants, Makuchowska said. "It's appalling and frightening because it's scapegoating."

The Catholic Church has



Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the leader of Poland's conservative ruling party, takes part in a Polish tradition of taking a basket to church for a blessing in Warsaw, Poland, Saturday, April 20, 2019.

Associated Press

long been revered as the language and spirit of Poland's people alive during

a long period of foreign rule, while also supporting the democracy movement under communism.

But the church's standing has taken a hit as sex abuse victims increasingly speak publicly about past crimes of accused priests. Public opinion surveys show falling support for having nuns and priests, or even lay educators, teach religion in public schools, as is now the case.

A movie about the clergy abuse problem, "Kler" (Clergy), became a blockbuster hit last year. On Wednesday, Kaczynski called the film an "attack on the church" and alleged it's the LGBT rights movement that puts Polish children at risk. □

German Greens won't back aspiring EU head who woos far right

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A leading candidate for Germany's left-leaning Greens said Thursday that his party won't back any candidate for president of the European Union's executive branch who relies on support from the far right. Populist and far-right parties critical of the EU are expected to make gains in the European parliamentary elections, which are being held in the 28 member countries from May 23-26.

Sven Giegold, a German lawmaker in the European Parliament, said if the Greens' own candidate for president of the EU's executive commission fails to win sufficient support, which is likely, the party would seek to form "a clear pro-European majority" in the bloc's legislature together with other mainstream factions.

"We won't back anyone who allows themselves to be supported by the far right," Giegold told reporters in Berlin.

The comment was directed toward the center-right European People's Party and its leading candidate, Manfred Weber, who is hoping to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker as president of the European Commission. □

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Rights group: Bahraini authorities abuse, torture detainees

By **BASSEM MROUE**

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Bahraini rights group said Thursday that sexual abuse and torture have been widespread and systematic in jails in the Gulf island nation during a yearslong crack-down.

The SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights group released a 30-page report documenting abuses it says “use the most intimate and personal parts of a person in order to inflict suffering.” The report was released in Beirut because the group is barred in Bahrain.

A Bahraini government spokesperson who asked not to be identified, said in an email that “the Government of Bahrain takes allegations of human rights violations very seriously. Bahrain has a zero-tolerance policy towards mistreatment of any kind and treats such allegations with the utmost seriousness.

“The Kingdom’s independent oversight institutions such as the Ombudsman and Special Investigation Unit will investigate any al-



Bahraini citizen Ebrahim Sarhan speaks during a press conference by SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights, a non-governmental organization that follows human rights abuses in the Middle East, in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, April 25, 2019.

legation of mistreatment thoroughly and transparently,” the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson said Bahrain’s independent Prisoners’ and Detainees’ Rights Committee “monitors prisoners’ and detainees’ status and the treatment they

receive to ensure that they are not subjected to torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment.” The spokesperson said “the committee exercises its functions freely, impartially, transparently and in a completely inde-

Associated Press
pendent manner.”

At the release in Beirut, Bahraini citizen Ebrahim Sarhan recounted the torture he was subjected to in 2017, describing how he was stripped naked in front of other inmates as officials

threatened to “bring in a bottle” — a veiled threat of sodomy. Sarhan, also a legal adviser to SALAM, said sexual torture has been ongoing since 2011 and there are no exact figures of how many men and women have been subjected to torture. However, the numbers are in the dozens, he said. Bahrain, which has been conducting a yearslong crackdown on dissent, has dismissed such allegations in the past. Sima Watling, Amnesty International Gulf researcher, said sexual torture usually takes place during interrogation in Bahrain and many former detainees refuse to speak about it to avoid being “stigmatized by one’s own family and community.”

“Whereas it is difficult for Amnesty International to state that sexual assault of detainees is systematic, it is certain that this practice has taken place and continues to take place and we consider it to be an act of torture,” she said. □

Iraq: Yazidis to accept children of IS rape into community



In this March 2, 2019 file photo, Dilbar Ali Ravu, 10, is kissed by his aunt Dalal Ravu when Yazidi children were reunited with their families in Iraq after five years of captivity with the Islamic State group, at a truck stop on the road between Sinjar and Dohuk, Iraq.

SALAR SALIM
Associated Press
ERBIL, Iraq (AP) — The children of Yazidi women raped by Islamic State men will be welcomed into the minority faith, a community leader said Thursday, allowing women taken as slaves by the militant group to re-

turn to Iraq from Syria. Eido Baba Sheikh, son of the Yazidi spiritual leader Baba Sheikh, said the children of the formerly enslaved women will be treated as members of the faith, resolving one of the most difficult questions facing the community since

the Islamic State group’s 2014 campaign to try to exterminate the minority. Thousands of women and girls were forced into sexual slavery when the extremists attacked Yazidi communities in northwest Iraq. But the community shunned the women returning from captivity with children, a reflection of the deeply held Yazidi traditions to view outsiders with suspicion as a response to centuries of persecution. Officials at the Beit Yazidi foundation in Kurdish-administered northeast Syria said Yazidi women with children who could have returned to Iraq were choosing to stay in Syria, instead, in order not to be separated from their children.

The Yazidi Supreme Spiritual Council issued a decree welcoming the survivors of slavery, and their children, into the Yazidi community, on Wednesday. □



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Putin says he'll brief US on summit with Kim

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (AP)

— President Vladimir Putin says he's willing to share details with the United States about his summit on Thursday with Kim Jong Un, potentially raising Russia's influence in the stalemated issue of North Korean denuclearization.

The two leaders' first one-on-one did not indicate major changes in North Korea's position: Putin said Kim is willing to give up nuclear weapons, but only if he gets ironclad security guarantees.

However, Putin said Kim urged him to explain the nuances of North Korea's position to President Donald Trump. Such an interlocutor role could be meaningful in light of Trump's apparent admiration of the Russian leader. Trump has said he "fell in love" with Kim, possibly indicating a proclivity to being swayed toward accommodation with the North Korean leader, although that declaration came before the Trump-Kim summit in Hanoi in February that collapsed in disagreement. After Thursday's summit in the Pacific port city of Vladivostok, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) from the North Korean border, Putin stressed that Moscow and Washington both want North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons. But, he said, the security guarantees Kim demands in exchange should be underwritten by multiple countries, hinting at an arrangement like the six-nation talks Russia participated in until their collapse in 2009. Putin later headed for a two-day trip to Beijing, where he said he will inform the Chinese leadership about the summit.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un posing for a photo prior to their talks in Vladivostok, Russia, Thursday, April 25, 2019.

"And we will just as openly discuss this issue with the U.S. leadership," Putin said. "There are no secrets. Russia's position always has been transparent. There are no plots of any kind." Putin's remarks reflect Kim's growing frustration with Washington's efforts to maintain "maximum pressure" until the North commits to denuclearization. But his characterization of Kim's comments also suggests there have been no major changes in North Korea's basic position. North Korea has all along contended that it needs its nuclear arsenal to defend itself against what it sees as U.S. hostility and wants concrete reassurances of its safety — including the removal of the American nuclear threat as an integral part of the denuclearization of the entire Korean Peninsula.

Trump has made clear that he is eager to work out a

deal with North Korea and has already indicated that he thinks he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. Russia's involvement in the issue could bolster his confidence, though some analysts think Washington and Moscow are too far estranged. "For Russia, I don't think it will deliver any leverage with the U.S. simply because the relations between Russia and the United States are at such a low level," Vasily Kashin, a researcher at Russia's Higher School of Economics, told The Associated Press. Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the lower house of the Russian parliament, saw the summit as burnishing Russia's credentials. "The fact that Kim Jon Un asked Vladimir Putin to brief the Chinese and U.S. leadership on the results of the summit attests to Russia's significant role as a guarantor of security in the Asia-

Pacific region," he was quoted as saying by state news agency Tass.

It wasn't immediately clear what other agreements the leaders might have struck. Along with a statement of political support, Kim was believed to be looking for some kind of economic support and possibly even a workaround to sanctions that will force more than 10,000 North Korean laborers in Russia to leave by the end of the year. The laborers are a major source of income for Pyongyang.

Putin said they discussed the issue and would find a solution taking into account "humanitarian" factors, though he didn't say what that would be.

On the economic front, both sides share an interest in enhanced cooperation if sanctions are eased.

Russia would like to gain broader access to North Korea's mineral resources, including rare metals.

Pyongyang, for its part, covets Russia's electricity supplies and investment to modernize its dilapidated Soviet-built industrial plants, railways and other infrastructure. For Putin, the summit was also seen as an opportunity for Russia to emerge as an essential player in the North Korean nuclear standoff.

Moscow has kept a relatively low profile as Kim embarked on what has been an audacious diplomatic journey over the past year. The Putin summit follows four summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping, three with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and two with Trump. Despite the current stalemate, Trump has said he would like to meet Kim again. Moon said Thursday he will try to hold a fourth summit with Kim and facilitate the resumption of U.S.-North Korea talks.

Since Kim's latest talks with Trump, in Hanoi, ended without any sign of progress, North Korea has expressed its open anger with what it calls an excessively hard-line position by Trump's top advisers in the deadlocked negotiations. Last week, it demanded U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo be removed from the talks and strongly criticized national security adviser John Bolton. There have been reports that Kim has done some internal shaking up as well, possibly firing one of his own main negotiators.

Though Kim appeared confident and respectful as he and Putin met for the first time, he comported himself formally — creating a scene reminiscent of old Soviet-style meetings and a sharp contrast with his more cordial summits with Moon and, at times, even Trump. □





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Brazil's congress receives indigenous leaders amid protests

By **RENATO DOMINGUES**
DIANE JEANTET
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Over 150 indigenous leaders met with lawmakers to discuss land rights and the role of their communities in the protection of the environment Thursday amid protests against the policies of Brazil's new far-right president.

The discussions in the Chamber of Deputies came on the second day of the Free Land Encampment, an annual three-day protest by indigenous groups held in Brazil's capital.

Indigenous leaders from several regions attended the congressional hearing, many of them with traditional feathered head-dresses and faces painted red or black. Marina Silva, a former environmental minister and presidential candidate, also attended the meeting.

More than 1,000 indigenous



Kayapo leader Raoni Metuktire, from left, Joenia Wapichana, the first indigenous congresswoman to be elected to Brazil's lower house, and indigenous leader Sonia Guajajara, attend a meeting with lawmakers to discuss land rights and the Chamber of Deputies' role in the protection of the environment in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, April 25, 2019.

people set up tents on the lawn of the congressional building Wednesday and began demonstrating against President Jair Bolsonaro's vow to encourage the expansion of mining and industrial farming in protected indigenous areas. "What is being disputed is the land," said Sonia

Associated Press
Guajajara, an indigenous leader and former vice presidential candidate. Bolsonaro "wants to give the indigenous territories to the United States, to foreigners, to explore our natural resources. We fight not only for our rights, our constitutional rights, but for our right to exist," Guajaja-

ra told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

"Where indigenous lands are demarcated, registered and controlled by the peoples, these territories are preserved and cared for," said Cleber Cesar Buzatto, secretary general of the Indigenous Missionary Council, a rights group linked to the Roman Catholic Church. "In some regions, in some states like Rondonia, Mato Grosso, Maranhao, these lands are like true oases in the middle of farming commodities fields, and of a lot of environmental destruction."

Soon after being sworn in Jan. 1, Bolsonaro transferred the authority for designating indigenous land and granting environmental licenses for businesses on indigenous reserves from the government's indigenous affairs agency to the Agriculture Ministry. He also shifted the indigenous affairs agency, FUNAI,

from the Justice Ministry to a new ministry for family, women and human rights that is being led by an ultraconservative evangelical pastor.

During an earlier meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Rodrigo Maia on Wednesday, Ivan Valente, a lawmaker who is part of an indigenous lobbying group, said the president's changes were "leaving the fox taking over the chicken coop."

Maia responded by saying that he would push to undo the changes when the proposals come up for debate.

Putting FUNAI back under the Justice Ministry "seems to me the most reasonable, the most rational (decision) that guarantees more security for each one of you," Maia said.

Guajajara told a cheering crowd that indigenous leaders will continue to oppose Bolsonaro's plans. □

Puerto Rico gov slams Trump, seeks swifter storm recovery

By **DANICA COTO**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's governor pledged on Wednesday to lift the U.S. territory from a deep recession by creating more jobs, reversing a migration exodus and implementing a range of incentives as the island struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria.

During a nearly two-hour state of the commonwealth address that followed a brief power outage at the seaside Capitol,



Puerto Rico's Gov. Ricardo Rossello delivers his commonwealth address at the seaside Capitol in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello also said he plans to hold a yes-or-no referendum on statehood. He also criticized President Donald Trump's response to Maria, a Category 4 storm that hit September 2017 and caused more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage.

"As Americans, Puerto Ricans deserve a swift recovery from Hurricane Maria. It's been over a year after the catastrophic event. We are still waiting for the disbursement of most of the funds already allocated

by Congress," Rossello said briefly in English before resuming his address in Spanish.

The governor said his administration has faced several obstacles amid hurricane recovery efforts, including what he called unfair conditions imposed to obtain federal funds and a hostile attitude from some federal officials.

"I reiterate to President Trump that he is discriminating against 3 million U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico," the governor said. □

LOCAL



Monumentsfund purchased typical cunucu house



ORANJESTAD — In 1982, ICOMOS established 18 April as the International Day for Monuments and Sites. This year the theme was Rural Landscapes. Monumentsfund Aruba (MFA) made use of this opportunity to announce the purchase of a monument at Pos Abou 19. This house known by the name 'Cas Tan Tin' (House of Aunt Tin) now belongs to the collection of monuments owned by MFA. Currently the Monumentsbureau which is the governmental department in charge of the protection of monuments is working on the legal protection of this beautiful house.

Last year a letter of intent was signed between MFA and the government of Aruba to purchase this house. Finally after just a few months everything was ready to announce that the house has been purchased by MFA and the keys were officially handed to the Minister of Culture who will be the tenants and Mi Cutisa Foundation will be the users of this beautiful cunucu house. Mi Cutisa Foundation will

make sure to keep the history of this house alive and make it accessible to the public.

The Tan Tin House was built by Mario and Johanna Tromp. Here they raised their nine children. The father also planted fruits and vegetables like okra, cucumber and pumpkin for their own consumption.

Typical Cunucuhouses obtained their name because most of them were in rural ('Cunucu') areas.

The houses in the form like the Tan Tin House were constructed in the period after the 'Torto Houses' made of loam which also form part of our rural heritage. Most of these houses were surrounded by a large tract of land often used for cultivation.

Due to the changes and developments on the island, these houses have become part of more inhabited areas. But they are still there to remind us of Aruba's rural heritage.

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tion to preserve this beautiful cunucuhouse for future generations. □



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Tightening of Monetary Policy (February 2019)



ORANJESTAD — During its meeting of February 8, 2019, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided to tighten monetary policy by increasing the reserve requirement rate from 11.0 percent to 12.0 percent and to uphold the advance rate at 1.0 percent, after reviewing the most recent economic and monetary data. This decision will take effect on May 1, 2019.

The decision followed after analyzing the most recent economic and monetary data, and considering the projected trends for the medium term. Whereas the level of international reserves currently remains above the CBA's critical thresholds, it falls short of

the Reserve Adequacy metric used by the IMF for small open economies. Moreover, in the medium term, the international reserves are projected to drop below the lower bound of the reserve adequacy bandwidth used by the IMF. The foreseen negative trend in Aruba's reserve adequacy is caused by mutually reinforcing structural factors, including an increasing trade imbalance, arising largely from (a) rising outgoing payments for imported goods & services, (b) expanding interest and redemption payments on foreign government debt, (c) financing by the government of foreign debt repayments by the issuance of domestic loans, and (d) the absence of alternative and significant sources of foreign exchange inflows besides tourism. In view of the aforementioned, monetary prudence and thus tightening of the reserve requirement are warranted.

International reserves

Total international reserves (including revaluation differences) expanded in December 2018 by Afl. 98.5 million, compared to the previous month. Compared to December 2017, the level of international reserves rose by Afl. 93.7 million (+5.1 percent) in December 2018, pushed by an Afl. 128.8 million expansion of the official reserves (+7.8 percent). This surge was primarily due to the issuance of US\$ 60 million in government bonds on the international capital market. Consequently, the official reserves and the international reserves stood at Afl. 1,778.0 million and Afl. 1,917.9 million, respectively, at the end of December 2018. As the benchmark of 3 months of current account payments (including oil) grew between December 2017 and December 2018, the current account import coverage ratio decreased from 5.2 months to 5.1 months. Based on the current outlook, net foreign assets are projected to drop in 2019 and 2020, but remain above the traditional benchmark monitored by the CBA. However, according to the latest calculations, net foreign assets will stay below the minimum adequacy range as advised by the IMF.

Credit developments

Compared to December 2017, overall loans rose by 3.1 percent in December 2018, mainly driven by housing mortgages (+8.2 percent) and business loans (+2.9 percent). A drop of 11.6 percent was registered in personal loans, a component of consumer credit.

Inflation

In December 2018, the CPI index rose by 4.6 percent, compared to the corresponding month a year earlier. On balance, this was mainly the result of the increase in the BBO-tariff, as well as higher prices in the transport and food components of the CPI. The twelve-month average inflation rate amounted to 3.6 percent in December 2018 whereas the twelve-month average core inflation rate (excluding energy and food) stood at 1.8 percent.

Tourism

Available data on tourism for December 2018 indicates that tourism receipts recorded at the commercial banks increased by 9.4 percent. Furthermore, stay-over tourism development indicators noted upturns in the first ten months of 2018, as growth was registered in tourist arrivals (+1.3 percent) and visitor nights (+1.4 percent). The number of cruise visitors coming to Aruba for the first ten months of 2018 expanded by 5.8 percent.

Money supply

In December 2018, money supply rose by Afl. 137.0 million to a level of Afl. 4,376.9 million, compared to December 2017. This rise resulted from expansions in the net domestic assets (+Afl. 45.7 million) as well as in the net foreign assets (+Afl. 91.4 million, excluding revaluation differences). □

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April's Catch

By Joris Zandvoort

ORANJESTAD — When you think of Aruba, you probably think of its scenic beaches and rightly so, Aruban lifestyle has always been closely linked to its white sandy shores. But when they dig a bit deeper into this place, they begin to understand just how amazing the fishing is in these parts. With steady temperatures around 90°F and waters perfectly suited for big game fishing, Aruba is an angler's ultimate bucket-list.

April brings a few changes to fishing in Aruba. As the Billfish season wanes, Tuna and Mahi fishing come alive. Albacore and Bonito are abundant, but the real thrill comes with Yellowfin Tuna, which is excellent at this time of year. The best part is, the big game fishing grounds are within 10 miles off the coast, so you can reach them in no time.

Wahoo and Barracuda fishing is as good as ever, and local captains have been catching them left and right recently. Captain Michael aboard Kristel Fishing just caught



three Wahoo, three Albacore Tunas and a Barracuda, all on a half day outing!

These past couple of weeks have been a little windy, so if you want to make the most out of your trip,

be sure to take some seasickness medication. If you like calmer waters, you'll be glad to know that Tarpon fishing on the flats is nothing short of amazing.

Pro tip: check the restaurants in the

marina – most of them will gladly cook your catch for you for a very reasonable price.

Well, what are you waiting for? Start your Aruban fishing adventure today! □

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH —Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

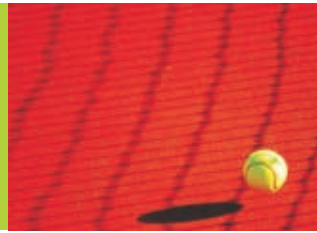
The honorees were Raymond and Rita Gallivan from Illinois who have been visiting the island 22 years consecutively!

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of The Marriott Ocean Club presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



SPORTS



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves to David Ferrer of Spain during his men's singles match at the Barcelona Open Tennis Tournament in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday, April 25, 2019.
Associated Press

Nadal beats Ferrer to reach Barcelona Open quarterfinals

By JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Rafael Nadal looked closer to his clay-court best again as he beat David Ferrer 6-3, 6-3 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Barcelona Open.

The 11-time Barcelona champion saved four of five break points and broke four times in what could have been his last meeting with Ferrer, who is retiring after the Madrid Open next month. It was a sign of improvement for Nadal, who lost in the semifinals in Monte Carlo last week and then needed three sets to get past Leonard Mayer in his opening match in Barcelona. "This match was important for me," Nadal said. "Yesterday I had a tough match. I took a step forward and was able to play with more energy."

The top-seeded Nadal will next face 51st-ranked Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany, who upset fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. The 20-year-old Tsitsipas, No. 8 in the world, lost last year's final in Barcelona to Nadal. □

STAYED TUNED



Rockets advance, wait to see if they'll get shot at Warriors

Houston Rockets center Clint Capela (15) scores over Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors (15) during the first half in Game 5 of an NBA basketball playoff series, in Houston, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

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Woods says he'll play new PGA Tour event in Japan

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Masters champion Tiger Woods is adding to his international travels at the end of this year, announcing Wednesday night that he will compete in Japan for the first time in 13 years at the new Zozo Championship. Woods said on Twitter that he was excited to play the new tournament and described Japan as "one of my favorite countries."

Woods is U.S. captain for the Presidents Cup that will be held Dec. 12-15 at Royal Melbourne in Australia, giving the 43-year-old Woods at least two trips halfway around the world. The Zozo Championship will be Oct. 24-27 at Accordia Golf Chiba Narashino Country Club, about 50 miles east of Tokyo. It is part of three tournaments that

make up the PGA Tour's Asia Swing, following the CJ Cup in South Korea and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai. The Japan tournament, co-sanctioned with the Japan Golf Tour, is a 78-man field with a \$9.75 million purse.

Woods last played in Japan in 2006 at the Dunlop Phoenix, where he lost in a playoff to Padraig Harrington. Woods won the Dunlop Phoenix the two previous years, beating Ryoken Kawagishi by nine shots in 2004, and beating Kaname Yokoo in a playoff in 2005. He also hit one of his best wedge shots in Japan in the 2001 World Cup, when he hit a pitch into the bank of the green and into the cup for an eagle that got Woods and David Du-

val into four-team playoff. South Africa wound up winning the World Cup.

Woods won for the 81st time in his PGA Tour career two weeks ago at the Masters, winning his fifth green jacket and 15th major. He had overcome four back surgeries since the spring of 2014, the most recent one to fuse his lower back in April 2017.

Woods had cut back on his international travel while coping with back problems.

Except for his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas — a short flight from his home in Florida — the Dubai Desert Classic in 2017 is the only regular tour event he has played overseas since the first of his four back surgeries. □



Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

Weather halts first-round play at PGA Tour's Zurich Classic

AVONDALE, La. (AP) —

Nearly three inches of heavy rain and lightning forced a stoppage in play lasting more than seven hours Thursday during the first round of the Zurich Classic team event.

The first players to tee off were on the course for a little more than 2 1/2 hours before the horn sounded to suspend play.

The tandem of Joel Dahmen and Brandon Harkins left the course with the lead at 6 under through nine holes at the par-72 TPC Louisiana course southwest of New Orleans. One group played as many as 10 holes before play was stopped. Play resumed in the evening with just more than two hours of daylight left.

As the only team event on the PGA Tour, the Zurich Classic field is comprised of 80 two-player teams that play a best-ball format in the first and third rounds and alternate shot in the second and final rounds. □

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James Harden helps Rockets eliminate Jazz with 100-93 win

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — In a series where their shots weren't falling like normal, the Houston Rockets managed to close it out with some tough defense.

James Harden scored 26 points and the Rockets outlasted the Utah Jazz 100-93 on Wednesday night to win their first-round playoff series 4-1.

Houston advanced to the Western Conference semi-finals for the third straight season and will face the winner of the Los Angeles Clippers-Golden State Warriors series.

The Rockets had 12 steals and 12 blocks, the first playoff game where they had double figures in both since Game 5 of the 1994 Western Conference finals, just before they went on to win their first title.

"We didn't make as many shots as we wanted to ... but these last few games we hung our hat on defense," Harden said.

Ricky Rubio cut Houston's lead to 94-93 on a jump shot with about a minute left. P.J. Tucker missed two free throws, but grabbed a loose ball seconds later and was fouled again. This time he made both shots to make it 96-93.

Harden blocked a shot by Rudy Gobert on Utah's next possession and he made two free throws to extend the lead to 98-93 with 38 seconds left.

Donovan Mitchell, who was just 4 of 22, missed a 3-pointer after that and Chris Paul added two more free throws to secure the victory.

"We didn't want to go back to Utah," Paul said. "We wanted to take care of business tonight. All night we were talking about energy. It's always hard to beat a team and close them out."

The Rockets got a solid game from Clint Capela, who had 16 points and 10 rebounds. He acknowledged having trouble breathing in the Game 4 loss because of an upper respiratory infection and was held to just four points.



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) drives to the basket against Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors (15) during the first half in Game 5 of an NBA basketball playoff series, in Houston, Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

"I felt a lot better," Capela said. "I definitely felt like another person than (I did) the last game."

After scoring 31 points to lead Utah to the victory in Game 4, Mitchell man-

aged just 12 points on a night he missed all nine of his 3-point attempts.

"I'm upset but I'm going to be better," the second-year player said. "Simply put, I wasn't tonight and I'll

be better."

Jazz coach Quin Snyder lamented the difficulties of dealing with a veteran coach like Mike D'Antoni and perennial All-Stars Paul and Harden.

"They're so cerebral that they're able to find weaknesses in your defense," he said.

Harden struggled to get going early and didn't score in the first quarter. But after missing his first seven shots and 11 of his first 12 attempts, he finally found a rhythm.

Royce O'Neal came off the bench to lead Utah with 18 points, Rubio had 17 and Jae Crowder added 15. Gobert wasn't much of a factor in this one, scoring just nine points with 10 rebounds.

The Jazz opened the fourth quarter with an 8-0 run to take a 77-75 lead with 9 minutes left. Rubio had two steals and a basket to help Utah go on top.

Houston ended its scoring drought after that, scoring the next five points, capped by a three-point play from Harden to make it 80-77.

Rubio made a 3-pointer for Utah before Paul scored five quick points to extend Houston's advantage to 85-80 with 7 minutes left.

Houston trailed by seven late in the second quarter before using a 14-3 run to lead by four entering the third. Harden scored eight of his 10 first-half points during that run. The Rockets kept it going to start the third, using a 10-2 spurt to make it 56-44 with about 10 minutes left in the quarter. Harden and Tucker had 3-pointers in that span and Capela added a dunk.

Danuel House made a 3-pointer and Harden added a layup seconds later to leave Houston up by 11 later in the quarter. But O'Neal made a 3 soon after that to before Mitchell added a three-point play to get Utah within 68-63 with about 2 minutes left in the third.

Austin Rivers ended Utah's run with a 3-pointer to extend Houston's lead to 71-63.

The Jazz cut the lead to 4 with less than 30 seconds left in the third after scoring four straight points, but Nene made a basket at the buzzer to leave Houston up 75-69 entering the fourth. □

Associated Press

Hurricanes stun defending champion Capitals in 2OT in Game 7

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justin Williams returned to the building that was the scene of his only Game 7 loss and left the ice relieved and redeemed after knocking off his old friends and defending Stanley Cup champions.

The man who earned the "Mr. Game 7" moniker shook Alex Ovechkin's hand after the Carolina Hurricanes' stunning 4-3 double-overtime victory over the Washington Capitals and beamed with pride in his upstart team's latest triumph that added another piece to one of the craziest first rounds in recent NHL history. Each conference's top seed, all four division champions and the teams that met in last year's Cup Final are all out, and the pesky Hurricanes are storming on to face the New York Islanders in the second round.

"You can kick the snot out of each other and look each other in the eye and say, 'Man that was a great series, you really pushed us,'" Williams said. "We pushed each other."

Carolina pushed Washington out of the playoffs by erasing a two-goal deficit and dominating two overtime periods in the third-longest Game 7 in NHL history. Unheralded forward Brock McGinn, who dived to prevent a Capitals goal late in regulation, redirected Williams' shot past Braden Holtby 11:05 into



Carolina Hurricanes left wing Brock McGinn (23) celebrates his game-winning goal with right wing Justin Williams (14) and defenseman Brett Pesce (22), in double overtime of Game 7 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series against the Washington Capitals, Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Washington. The Hurricanes won 4-3 in double overtime.

the second overtime to send his teammates into a wild celebration and the heavily favored Metropolitan Division champions home early.

The Hurricanes outshot the Capitals 18-6 in the overtimes, and it was clear Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom, Evgeny Kuznetsov and the big guns were gassed after each surpassing 30 minutes of ice time. "Both teams were (tired)," said Ovechkin, who had a series-high nine points. "Players played a lot of minutes."

The Capitals played a lot of hockey over the past year in winning the first title in franchise history, enduring a midseason seven-game

losing streak and still finishing first after 82 games. But they missed an opportunity to close out the Hurricanes in Game 6 on the road Monday, coughed up a lead in the seventh game and bowed out in the first round for the first time since 2013.

It's the first time in NHL history all four division winners were eliminated in the first round. Unlike Presidents' Trophy winning Tampa Bay, which got swept, or Western Conference top seed Calgary that got bounced by Colorado in five games, this was right there for the Capitals with a series lead and a two-goal advantage in Game 7 before it slipped away.

"It's tough right now," Backstrom said. "It's tough. Double overtime. Tough one for us. We were up 3-1. Looking back at that, we need to find a way to shut them down there or keep them out of the score sheet there when we got a 3-1 lead. We gave it to them." In just as many ways, the Hurricanes took it. Undaunted by an early deficit, they got second-period goals from Sebastian Aho and Teuvo Teravainen and tied it early in the third on Jordan Staal's third of the series. Petr Mrazek finished off an inconsistent round by stopping 34 of 37 shots and got bailed out by McGinn when he saved a would-be Capitals go-ahead goal

with two minutes remaining in the third period.

"It's just a reaction," McGinn said. "I don't know if it had enough steam to cross the line, but I don't think I was taking that chance."

In a weird series where the home team won the first six games, there were plenty of chances to end it before McGinn's goal. Washington's Jakub Vrana, who was demoted to the fourth line by first-year coach Todd Reirden, hit the post in the second overtime, and the Capitals couldn't cash in on a power play for a Hurricanes delay of game penalty.

"Every opportunity missed is devastating, really," Capitals defenseman John Carlson said. "When you don't do well, it is more than just we were up in the series or the game. It is everything. It hurts."

Washington fell to 4-8 in Game 7 in the Ovechkin and Backstrom era and 5-12 all-time, including 3-9 at home. The Capitals had the opportunity to face former coach Barry Trotz's Islanders in the second round after they swept the Penguins, but now the opportunity belongs to the Hurricanes.

"This is just another step," said Williams, who is 8-1 in his career in Game 7 with an NHL record 15 points. "It's wide open for us. It's wide open for every team. There's eight left and we're going to keep pushing to see how good we could be." □

Canada's Stanley Cup drought reaches 26 years

TORONTO (AP) — Many current NHL players were either not yet born or too young to remember the last time a Canadian team hoisted the Stanley Cup. The drought now stands at 26 years after all three Canadian teams were eliminated in the opening round of the 2018-19 playoffs.

The Boston Bruins defeated Toronto 5-1 in Game 7 of their Eastern Conference quarterfinal on Tuesday night, sending the Maple Leafs into the offseason

alongside the Calgary Flames and Winnipeg Jets. The other four Canadian teams did not reach the postseason this year.

The inauspicious streak has been threatened a few times — Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver each made it to Game 7 of a Cup Final before being eliminated, while Ottawa also made it to a Final — but this season will mark the eighth straight time two American teams will compete for the iconic trophy.

In 2016, not one of Canada's seven teams even qualified for the playoffs.

What was life like the last time a Canadian team won the Cup? Nokia was the top manufacturer of mobile phones, personal computers were running the Windows 3.1 operating system, social media didn't exist, "Unforgiven" had just won best picture at the Academy Awards, Janet Jackson's "The Way Love Goes" topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart

and Tiger Woods was two months away from winning his third straight U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. For the Maple Leafs, it was more heartbreak for a franchise that has failed to advance to the second round of the playoffs since 2004 and has not won the Stanley Cup since 1967. "It's the same (awful) feeling as last year," said Maple Leafs winger Mitch Marner. The Bruins have beaten Toronto in Game 7 in the opening round of the playoffs three

of the last seven seasons, including last year. Calgary entered the postseason as the top team in the Western Conference. Winnipeg had reached the West finals a year ago. In the end, the Canada curse lived on. Calgary was dumped by Colorado in five games after shutting out the Avalanche in the series opener. Winnipeg lost three times at home in falling to rising St. Louis in six games. The Maple Leafs led their series 3-2 before being ousted. □

Pomeranz, 2 relievers toss 2-hitter, Giants beat Jays 4-0

TORONTO (AP) — Drew Pomeranz and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, Pablo Sandoval homered for the second straight game, and San Francisco completed a two-game sweep of Toronto.

Buster Posey, Brandon Belt and Evan Longoria all hit RBI doubles as the Giants won their second straight following a season-high four-game losing streak.

The Blue Jays were shut out for the first time since opening day, when they lost 2-0 to Detroit in 10 innings.

Pomeranz (1-2) allowed two hits, both singles, in a season-high six innings. He walked two and struck out five to win for the first time since Aug. 10, 2018, with Boston.

Clay Buchholz (0-1) allowed four runs and six hits in five-plus innings. He walked none and struck out two.

ASTROS 7, TWINS 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Justin Verlander pitched eight dominant innings, and Carlos Correa, Michael Brantley and Josh Reddick all homered to lead Houston past Minnesota.

Verlander (4-0) retired the first 10 batters before Jorge Polanco crushed a pitch into the second deck in right field in the fourth inning. Verlander retired 11 of the last 12 batters he faced.

In Verlander's last three starts, he has given up three runs in 21 innings with 27 strikeouts.

Kohl Stewart (0-1) gave up five runs and eight hits, striking out one and walking three in six innings.

RED SOX 11, TIGERS 4

BOSTON (AP) — J.D. Martinez had three hits and Eduardo Rodriguez pitched six strong innings as Boston rebounded from a doubleheader sweep to beat De-

troit. The defending World Series champion Red Sox

hits over 19 innings in three starts prior to the injury.

added another run. Leonys Martin was hit by a pitch

league homer, John Means pitched five effective innings on his birthday and Baltimore beat Chicago.

Baltimore won two of three to capture its first series since April 1-3 in Toronto. The two straight victories are the Orioles' most since a four-game run that began at Yankee Stadium on March 30.

Wilkerson's second-chance solo shot off Ervin Santana (0-2) put the Orioles up 4-1 in the fourth. Earlier in the at-bat, Wilkerson walked to first base after apparently being hit by a pitch, but a replay proved otherwise.

Means (3-2) marked his 26th birthday with a career-high six strikeouts. The lefty allowed one run and four hits.

Mychal Givens worked the final two innings for his first save.

YANKEES 6, ANGELS 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — DJ LeMahieu singled home Tyler Wade with the tiebreaking run in the ninth, and the Yankees rallied from a five-run deficit for their sixth consecutive victory, over the hapless Angels.

Wade made up for an earlier baserunning mishap when he got a two-out single off Ty Buttrey (1-1) and stole second. LeMahieu then drove in his third run of the night for the Yankees, who trailed 5-0 after five innings before rallying to win at Angel Stadium for a franchise-record sixth straight time.

CC Sabathia fell short of recording his 3,000th career strikeout while yielding four earned runs and six hits over five innings for the Yankees.

Andrelton Simmons hit two homers off Sabathia, and Kole Calhoun added a three-run homer during the Los Angeles' four-run fourth inning.

But the last-place Angels blew it all in their ninth loss in 10 games, and the no-name Yankees just kept winning.

Jonathan Loáisiga (1-0) pitched three innings of two-hit relief in his first game back from the minors. Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his fourth save. □



San Francisco Giants third baseman Evan Longoria (10) hit a RBI double as Toronto Blue Jays catcher Danny Jansen (9) looks on during sixth inning baseball action in Toronto, on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Associated Press

avoided their fourth losing streak of three games or more.

Martinez hit two singles, a double and drove in a run, and Christian Vázquez had two RBI singles.

Nicholas Castellanos had an RBI single for the Tigers, a day after their first doubleheader sweep in Boston since 1965.

Rodriguez (2-2) gave up a run on two hits, striking out seven and walking three.

Tyson Ross (1-3) allowed four runs in five innings.

ROYALS 10, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Tampa Bay ace Blake Snell lasted one out into the fourth inning in his return from a broken right fourth toe as Kansas City cruised to victory.

The 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner, who hurt the toe attempting to move a decorative display in his bathroom on April 14, allowed three runs, five hits, two walks and struck out three during a 65-pitch outing.

The left-hander (2-2) had given up one run and nine

Adalberto Mondesi hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, Billy Hamilton had two hits and two RBIs, and Jakob Junis (2-2) gave up one run and four hits in five innings for the Royals, who stopped a five-game losing streak.

INDIANS 6, MARLINS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez homered and drove in four runs, Jake Bauers' eighth-inning single scored the go-ahead run and Cleveland beat Miami. Martin Prado's two-out homer for Miami tied the game in the top of the eighth, but the Indians responded by scoring four times to snap a three-game losing streak.

Ramirez hit a two-out homer in the first and had an RBI single in the third. His eighth-inning double added two runs and capped Cleveland's big inning.

Adam Conley (0-3) walked Carlos Gonzalez to begin the eighth. Bauers slapped a ground ball through the open left side of the infield to score Gonzalez. Francisco Lindor's two-out single

and Ramirez doubled into the right field corner.

Nick Wittgren (1-0) struck out two in the eighth.

ATHLETICS 6, RANGERS 5

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Chad Pinder's two-out RBI single in the ninth inning lifted Oakland over Texas.

Stephen Piscotty singled with one out off Chris Martin (1-1) and then stole second base. After Khris Davis flied out, Pinder looped a soft hit into right field. Piscotty slid into home plate to beat a wide throw home from Nomar Mazara as the A's dugout emptied, mobbing Pinder near first base. Matt Chapman and Marcus Semien homered to help the A's complete a three-game sweep.

Mazara homered twice for Texas and Logan Forsythe also went deep as the Rangers fell to 2-7 on the road.

Blake Treinen (1-1) retired three batters and got a big double play in the ninth to earn the win.

ORIOLES 4, WHITE SOX 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Stevie Wilkerson hit his first major



Wainwright gets 150th win as Cards sweep Brewers

By The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Adam Wainwright was warm enough on a cool day, allowing one run in six innings for his 150th career victory, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Last year's MVP, Christian Yelich, had most of the day off but still had a chance to rescue the Brewers. He came up as a pinch-hitter with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, but Jordan Hicks struck him out to pick up his seventh save in eight chances.

Wainwright (2-2) matched his season low in runs allowed, and it was his first quality start in a game with a starting temperature of 60 degrees or cooler since May 27, 2017.

Marcell Ozuna and Yadier Molina homered for the Cardinals as part of a four-run fourth.

St. Louis' three-game sweep of Milwaukee was its first against its NL Central rival since July 1-3, 2016.

Jhoulys Chacin (2-3) lasted four innings, allowing four runs on five hits.

PHILLIES 6, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Rhys Hoskins homered off reliever Jacob Rhame and taunted him with a slow jog around the bases a night after Rhame buzzed him with two fastballs, and struggling Philadelphia beat New York.

Hoskins was furious after Rhame sailed two pitches over his head with two outs in the ninth inning of New York's 9-0 win Tuesday. The slugger faced Rhame again in the ninth Wednesday, flipping his bat emphatically after hooking a two-run shot over the wall in left.

It took Hoskins 34.23 seconds to touch 'em all, the slowest trot in the majors this season.

Velasquez (1-0) struck out six and allowed three hits in five innings, dropping his ERA to 1.99, as the Phillies avoided a three-game sweep.

Jason Vargas (1-1) allowed Bryce Harper's RBI double



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in St. Louis.

in the first but was otherwise strong.

PADRES 1, MARINERS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rookie Chris Paddack shut down baseball's highest-scoring offense for his first victory, holding Seattle to one hit in seven innings and retiring his final 19 batters, nine by strikeout, San Diego beat AL West-leading Seattle.

Paddack and relievers Trey Wingenter and Kirby Yates combined on a two-hitter. Ian Kinsler homered off Felix Hernandez (1-2) and the Padres swept the two-game series. They've beaten the Mariners six straight times and won three straight overall following a six-game losing streak.

The 23-year-old Paddack (1-1), who lowered his ERA from 2.25 to 1.67, was brilliant in his fifth big league start. He got into and out of a bases-loaded jam in the first, and after that it was lights out.

Yates pitched the ninth for his 12th save in as many chances.

CUBS 7, DODGERS 6

CHICAGO (AP) — Javier Baez and Jason Heyward each hit three-run homers

in the sixth inning, and Chicago overcame a wild start by Cole Hamels to beat Los Angeles.

Pinch-hitter David Bote followed with a double to deep center against Scott Alexander (1-1). Willson Contreras was intentionally walked and Heyward lined a 2-2 pitch to the basket in left-center.

Hamels matched his highest walk total in three seasons with six over 5 2/3 innings after issuing none in winning his previous three starts.

Brad Brach (2-0) got the final two outs in the sixth. Pedro Strop walked pinch hitter Max Muncy leading off the ninth. But he struck out Enrique and got Justin Turner to hit into a double play for his third save in four chances.

ROCKIES 9, NATIONALS 5

DENVER (AP) — Raimel Tapia had two doubles and drove in three runs to back a solid outing from German Marquez, and Colorado beat Washington.

Charlie Blackmon homered and Trevor Story extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a double and

a triple. Nolan Arenado had three RBIs, David Dahl had three hits and Wade Davis picked up his third save. The Rockies have won eight of their last 10. Juan Soto homered for the Nationals, who have yet to win more than two games in a row this season.

Marquez (3-1) pitched in pain in his previous start because of an infected tooth. He had it pulled after the loss to Philadelphia on Friday and battled through seven innings Wednesday. The Rockies scored the next nine runs off Anibal Sanchez (0-3) and Washington's bullpen.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ketel Marte homered twice and Arizona won at Pittsburgh for the ninth straight time. Marte extended Arizona's lead to 5-1 with a solo shot in the fifth inning and drove a three-run shot, his sixth homer this season, into the left-field bleachers in the eighth.

Arizona's nine-game winning streak at PNC Park is its longest in an opponent's stadium. The Diamond-

backs have not lost in Pittsburgh since May 29, 2017.

Merrill Kelly (2-2) gave up two runs on six hits in seven innings, walking two and striking out five.

Jordan Lyles (2-1) lasted five innings, allowing five runs, four earned, on eight hits with three strikeouts.

BRAVES 3, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Ozzie Albies homered on the game's first pitch and Ronald Acuna Jr. scored from first base on Yasiel Puig's fifth-inning error, helping Atlanta beat Cincinnati.

Acuna scored easily when Puig misplayed Nick Markakis's line drive single to right, allowing it to skip under his glove and roll to the wall for a two-base error.

Mike Soroka (1-1), in his second start of the season and seventh of his career, tied his career high with seven strikeouts while allowing five hits and one run with three walks in 5 2/3 innings. A.J. Minter pitched a perfect ninth for his third save. Tanner Roark (1-1) got through five innings, allowing six hits and two runs with three walks and four strikeouts. He also hit a batter. □

Associated Press

Possible \$5B Facebook fine echoes European tech penalties

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The possibility of a \$5 billion federal privacy fine for Facebook suggests that U.S. regulators may be taking a cue from the large penalties their European counterparts have been handing out to U.S. technology giants.

While investors appear to have shrugged it off for now, the potential fine from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission would be more than a slap on the wrist for Facebook, especially if it comes with strings that limit how the company targets advertising to its massive user base.

Facebook said Wednesday it is planning for a fine between \$3 billion and \$5 billion and formally set aside \$3 billion for the FTC, which is investigating whether the social network violated its users' privacy. The amount is a contingency against a possible penalty; Facebook noted that the "matter remains unresolved."

The company's disclosure is the latest indication of U.S. moves toward tighter regulation of the technology industry, which has enjoyed years of nearly unrestricted growth with little oversight. Talk of a national data-privacy law is swirling around Capitol Hill, states like California have already forged ahead with their own mea-



In this March 28, 2018, file photo, a visitor poses for a photo with the Facebook logo reflected on her sunglasses at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

sures, and U.S. presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren has proposed breaking up the biggest U.S. tech companies.

In Europe, regulators have routinely slapped Google and other U.S. firms with major fines. Google now owes almost \$10 billion in such penalties for alleged anticompetitive behavior; its parent company Alphabet is appealing. EU watchdogs also hit Apple with a back-taxes bill of more than \$15 billion.

Facebook, meanwhile, is already preparing for a future where targeted ads

play a smaller role in its business, flexing its muscles in e-commerce and payments and touting a coming shift toward private communications.

The one-time charge slashed Facebook's first-quarter profit considerably, although revenue grew by 26% in the period. The FTC has been looking into whether Facebook broke its own 2011 agreement promising to protect user privacy.

Investors shrugged off the charge and sent the company's stock up more than 9% to nearly \$200 in after-

hours trading. Wall Street in general tends to forgive one-time accounting dents in companies' earnings reports and focus instead on how the overall business is doing. Besides, even if Facebook ends up paying \$5 billion this year, it's unlikely to seriously harm a company that's expected to rake in profit of \$22 billion this year.

EMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson, however, called it a "significant development" and noted that any settlement is likely to go beyond a mere dollar amount. The FTC move,

she said, "may impact the ways advertisers can use the platform in the future." Facebook has had several high-profile privacy lapses in the past couple of years. The FTC has been looking into Facebook's involvement with the data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica since last March. That company accessed the data of as many as 87 million Facebook users without their consent.

The 2011 FTC agreement bound Facebook to a 20-year privacy commitment and violations could subject Facebook to fines of \$41,484 per violation per user per day. The agreement requires that Facebook users give "affirmative express consent" any time that data they haven't made public is shared with a third party.

The FTC's investigation and anticipated sanction against Facebook has put a spotlight on the agency's role as an enforcer of privacy protections. Consumer privacy advocates and Democratic lawmakers, saying the FTC is hampered, have pushed for legislation to expand its powers and funding to police privacy. Republicans have generally opposed an expansion of federal authority, but in the wake of the Facebook and other privacy scandals some have taken a more open view. □

Google's Wing Aviation gets FAA OK for drone deliveries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Google affiliate Wing Aviation has received federal approval allowing it to make commercial deliveries by drone.

It's the first time a company has gotten a federal air carrier certification for drone deliveries.

The approval from the Federal Aviation Administration means that Wing can operate commercial drone flights in part of Virginia, which it plans to begin later this year.

The FAA said Tuesday that the company met the agency's safety require-

ments by participating in a pilot program in Virginia with the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership and Virginia Tech, and by conducting thousands of flights in Australia over the past several years.

"This is an important step forward for the safe testing and integration of drones into our economy," Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said in a statement.

Wing said the approval "means that we can begin a commercial service delivering goods from local businesses to homes in the United States."

The company didn't name any businesses that would take part in commercial deliveries. It said it plans to spend the next several months demonstrating its technology and answering questions from people and businesses in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Virginia. Wing said it will "solicit feedback with the goal of launching a delivery trial later this year."

Wing said that to win FAA certification it had to show that one of its drone deliveries would pose less risk to pedestrians than the same trip made in a car. The com-

pany said its drones have flown more than 70,000 test flights and made more than 3,000 deliveries to customers in Australia.

The company is touting many benefits from deliveries by electric drones. It says medicine and food can be delivered faster, that drones will be especially helpful to consumers who need help getting around, and that they can reduce traffic and emissions.

Drone usage in the U.S. has grown rapidly in some industries such as utilities, pipelines and agriculture. But drones have faced

more obstacles in delivering retail packages and food because of federal regulations that bar most flights over crowds of people and beyond sight of the operator without a waiver from the FAA. The federal government recently estimated that about 110,000 commercial drones were operating in the U.S., and that number is expected to zoom to about 450,000 in 2022. Amazon is working on drone delivery, a topic keen to CEO Jeff Bezos. Delivery companies including UPS and DHL have also conducted tests. □

Millennial Money: Are you robbing the Bank of Mom and Dad?

By **MELISSA LAMBARENA**
NerdWallet

Associated Press

When Melanie Lockert graduated with a master's in performance studies in 2011, she was overwhelmed with student loans. Her many attempts to tap the Bank of Mom and Dad had failed.

She had already worked three jobs to pay off \$13,000. After juggling multiple jobs, relocating from New York to Portland, Oregon, and trimming expenses, she paid off the remaining \$68,000 in 2015. Now 34, she acknowledges that tackling it herself may have been for the best.

"If my parents had agreed to fund my education, I think it would have kind of been at the expense of their own retirement," says Lockert, a writer and founder of the Dear Debt blog. Indeed, plenty of parents may already be behind on that count. Forty-five percent of baby boomers have nothing saved for retirement, according to a 2019 study by the Insured Retirement Institute, a financial services trade group. And with average U.S. life expectancy now at about 78 years old, a nest



In this March 14, 2019, file photo, people walk on the Stanford University campus in Santa Clara, Calif.

egg is key.

"Expectations I don't think are set properly for how long people are going to live, so I think most families are going to need every penny (for retirement)," says Justin Castelli, CEO and financial advisor at RLS Wealth Management in Fishers, Indiana.

If your parents aren't on track for retirement, accepting a monetary gift from them can create

more financial problems than it solves.

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE TAKING A GIFT

A gift from your parents could jeopardize their potential retirement earnings, but it could eventually cost you, too, if you're their financial Plan B for their golden years. Before accepting, take these steps: — Have a money talk. To preserve quality of life in retirement, financial plan-

ners generally recommend saving enough to replace about 70% of pre-retirement income. Castelli suggests that it depends on your parents' goals. Find out where Mom and Dad stand. If they aren't sure, a fee-only financial advisor can offer a clearer picture. — Understand the costs. Parents will be required to file a gift tax return for any amount above \$15,000 per parent. And depending on

Associated Press

what account the money is coming from and when, additional taxes and penalties may apply.

— Outline expectations. Will you be financially responsible for your parents in their later years? If so, consider those future costs. For example, a 65-year-old couple who retired in 2018 would need to have saved \$280,000 to cover health and medical expenses throughout retirement, according to a Fidelity estimate. Mom and Dad may be able to help you out today, but at what cost for tomorrow?

— Weigh the family dynamic. If they give you money, your parents could also feel pressured to help your siblings and further hurt their retirement savings. And if they only help you, it could lead to jealousy or hurt feelings. — Make sure you truly need the help. As she was paying down debt, Lockert says her work ethic and creativity were pushed to the limit, forcing her to think differently about money. "I felt more confident paying large bills," she said. If you can budget, save and take advantage of alternative resources, you might tackle financial goals yourself. □

US durable goods orders up solid 2.7% in March

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods rose 2.7% in March with a key category that tracks business investment decisions rising at the strongest pace in eight months. The increase in orders for durable goods followed a 1.1% drop in orders in February, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Both months were influenced by a swing in the volatile category of commercial aircraft, which had fallen sharply in February and rebounded in March. The closely watched category that serves as a proxy for business investment saw a 1.3% rise in orders in



In this Tuesday, April 23, 2019 photo, clothes washers and dryers are shown for sale at a Home Depot store in Miami Lakes, Fla.

Associated Press

March, the best showing since a 1.5% increase last July.


The government will provide its first look at overall economic growth, as

measured by the gross domestic product, on Friday. Economists have been upgrading their estimates for first quarter growth with many now thinking the

GDP expanded at an annual rate of close to 3% in the first three months of the year, up a full percentage point from their previous estimates. Several economic reports in recent weeks have shown new-found strength.

A separate report Thursday showed that the number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits, a proxy for layoffs, jumped 37,000 to a still-low 230,000 last week. Claims had declined for five straight weeks, falling to a near 50-year low of 193,000 the week of April 13. Analysts attributed last week's big jump in benefit applications to trouble seasonally adjusting the numbers around spring holidays such as Easter and Pass-

over, which occur at different times each year. □



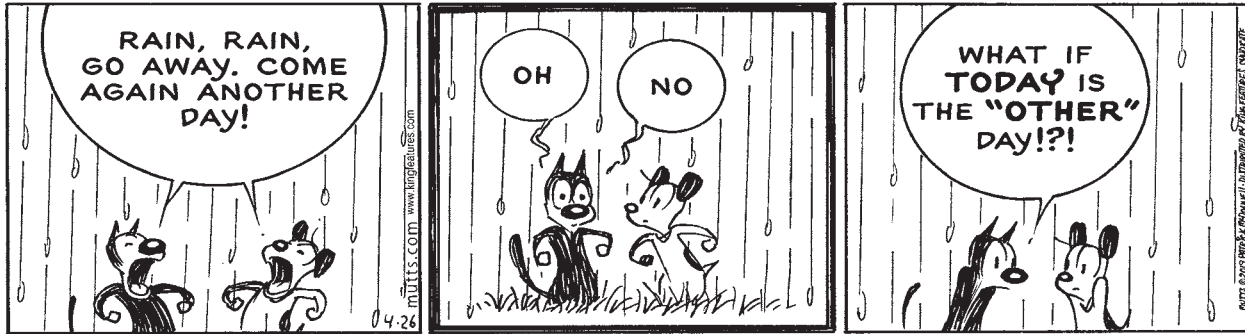
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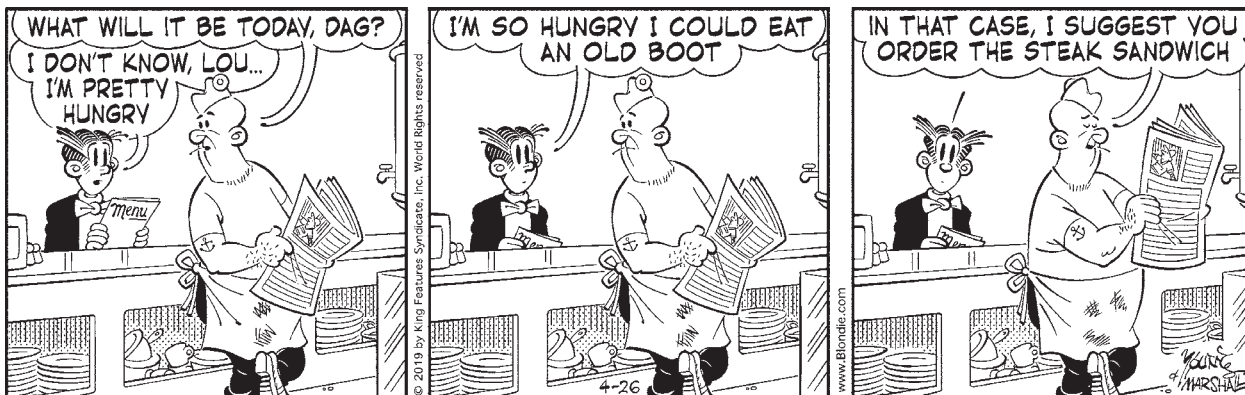
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9		3		1		5	
5								6
			7		4			
1		3				6		2
8		6				5		7
			9		5			
7								1
	4		8		3		2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

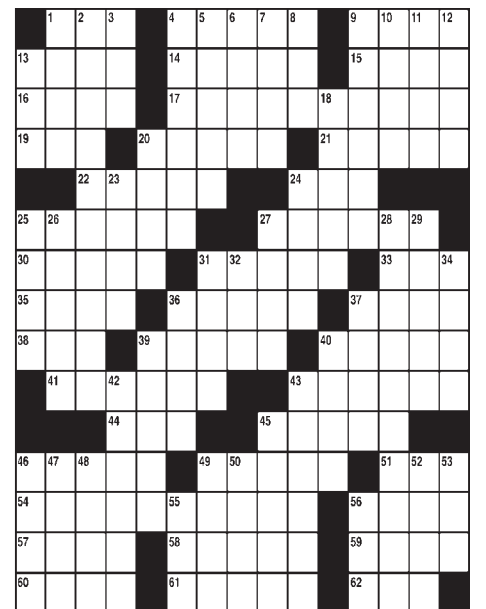
1	3	6	7	9	5	2	8	4
2	7	4	6	3	8	5	1	9
5	8	9	2	1	4	6	7	3
4	1	8	9	2	3	7	6	5
3	5	7	4	8	6	9	2	1
9	6	2	1	5	7	3	4	8
8	2	5	3	7	1	4	9	6
7	4	1	5	6	9	8	3	2
6	9	3	8	4	2	1	5	7

ACROSS

- Damone or Tayback
- Shining
- Brief haircut
- One of the Three Bears
- Piece of garlic
- Ceremony
- Game broadcaster
- Remorse
- Name for 13 popes
- Recluse
- Correct
- Cheese variety
- "Ready, __, go!"
- Shrubs
- Explosions
- Kitchen tearjerker
- Short-tailed weasel
- Wheel center
- Curved bones
- Charley horse, e.g.
- In this place
- Org. for Eagles & Ravens
- Part of USMC
- Funeral hymn
- Annually
- Onetime
- "The butler __ it!"
- Shakespearean lover
- Lake near Reno
- Steeple
- Behold
- Valuing too highly
- Stick around
- Critical; urgent
- Contrary to fact
- Prince Louis' mum
- Chances
- Cornered
- "... a jungle out there!"

DOWN

- Bouquet holder
- Out of the question
- __do attitude; positive mind-set
- Come __; find
- Secluded valleys
- Easy gait
- "One Flew __ the Cuckoo's Nest"
- Actress Ming-Na __
- Characteristics
- Engagement symbol
- Reason to use calamine lotion
- Track-and-field event
- Singer Tormé
- Actor Williams
- Claim against property
- TV's " __ the Boss?"
- Grand __; batter's delight
- " __ Free"; film about a lioness
- Bring together
- Supervisor
- Temperature regulator
- Sudden increase
- Light-footed
- Touch lightly
- Foam-topped drink



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/26/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CYST	SCOLD	PLEA
ROLE	ELITE	LIAR
AGED	WILDE	BEEST
BIN	DEFY	LASTS
DWARF	HIS	
SHEENS	POSERS	
AORTA	DALES	EAT
FOES	SOLOS	BLUE
EDS	FILLY	PEACE
STROLL	HOAXES	
IRK	SANTA	
SHIFT	FEND	TAT
COLLECTING	MILE	
ABLE	BALSA	LOSS
TOSS	SNEER	KNOT

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4/26/19

- Auctioneer's cry
- Give a job to
- Weeper
- Capitol roof
- Venerates
- Signed another's name
- Dishwasher cycle
- Commotion
- Passionate
- Group of cattle
- Betelgeuse, e.g.
- Stack
- Dines
- Needle's hole
- Fore and __
- Word before lift or boots



This April 19, 2019 photo from Keepers of the Wild shows Bowie, a Bengal tiger in his compound at the nonprofit animal rescue facility near the town of Valentine in northwestern Arizona.
Associated Press

Tiger attacks founder of Arizona nonprofit animal rescue

Associated Press

VALENTINE, Ariz. (AP) — A Bengal tiger attacked a nonprofit animal rescue's founder in northwestern Arizona and will not be put down after the man said it was his fault. Keepers of the Wild, located in Valentine, Arizona, about 35

miles (56 kilometers) east of Kingman, confirmed in a statement posted Wednesday on its Facebook page that Jonathan Kraft suffered multiple wounds and two broken bones when a Bengal tiger named Bowie pushed an open gate and attacked. □

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Studio unit 13 \$2950
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with 30 weeks remain

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With 32 weeks remain
1 BR 1 1/2bath
Wk#8 and 9 PH
14th floor with 29 and 32 weeks remain \$25 K both weeks

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Editor

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Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Louredska Maduro
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Frances
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

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Wild bee species critical to pollination on the decline

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — More than a dozen wild bee species critical to pollinating everything from blueberries to apples in New England are on the decline, according to a new study.

Researchers from the University of New Hampshire wanted to understand if the documented declines hitting honeybees and bumblebees were also taking a toll on the lesser studied bee species in New Hampshire.

So they examined 119 species in the state from a museum collection at the college dating back 125 years. Writing in the peer-reviewed journal *Insect and Conservation Diversity* this month, Sandra Rehan and Minna Mathiasson concluded 14 species found across New England were on the decline by as much as 90 percent. Several of them are leafcutter and mining bees, which, unlike honeybees, nest in the ground.

"We know that wild bees are greatly at risk and not doing well worldwide," Rehan, assistant professor of biological sciences and the senior author on the study, said in a prepared statement. "This status assessment of wild bees shines a light on the exact spe-



This 2018 photo provided by the University of New Hampshire shows a ground nesting bee pollinating a flower in New Hampshire.

cies in decline, beside the well-documented bumblebees. Because these species are major players in crop pollination, it raises concerns about compromising the production of key crops and the food supply in general."

Bees have been on the decline for more than a decade across the globe, and scientists have blamed a range of factors including insecticides called neonicotinoids, parasites, disease, climate change and lack

of a diverse food supply. Bees are critical pollinators, and about a third of the human diet comes from plants that are pollinated by insects.

Greg Burt, who owns Burt's Apple Orchard in Cabot, Vermont, said he relies heavily on wild pollinators to produce crops. The 9,000-tree orchard covers 10 acres and has been around for a decade.

"Making sure that pollinators in the area are healthy and doing well is definitely

something we're concerned about," Burt said.

Jeff Lozier, a bee expert from the University of Alabama who did not take part in the research, called the study "interesting" and said the findings are a critical step in expanding research into lesser known species of bees. He did, however, caution that researchers studied only bees in New Hampshire and depended upon bees in a museum that were not collected "for the purpose of

large scale population surveys."

"The most important use of the data in my view is in providing a baseline set of hypotheses for groups of species that are potentially declining or stable across a much greater set of species than is usually examined, which can then be investigated in more detail to determine why they may be changing," Lozier said in an email interview. "This study doesn't really determine the why quite yet, but gives us a reference point for further study."

Rehan said she hopes the study will inspire other researchers to take a closer look at these rarely studied bee species, including understanding why they are declining. While the museum collection couldn't pinpoint whether possible causes such as urban development or pesticides are behind a drop in their numbers, it did hint at one possible cause: climate change.

The study found that half of those bees on decline were now more prevalent at higher elevations like the White Mountains than in southern areas near sea level like the coastal areas of New Hampshire. As they shift northward, some of the species may not have the access to the same kinds of flowers and plants. □



In this Monday, Feb. 6, 2017 file photo, pedestrians cross a rainy street in downtown Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Even light rain increases your risk of a deadly car crash

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even light rain significantly increases your risk of a fatal car crash, a new study finds. The wetter the roads, the deadlier they become, with rain, snow and ice increasing the risk of deadly car crashes by 34%, according to a study this week in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. Light rain — "We're talking a drizzle, just at the point where you might consider taking an umbrella out," said study lead author Scott Stevens — increased

the fatal crash risk by 27%. Stevens, a data analyst and meteorologist at the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies, and colleagues looked at 125,012 fatal car crashes in the Lower 48 states from 2006 to 2011, factoring in how many cars are on the road, to calculate the risk of a fatal accident.

While other studies have used police reports and the nearest weather station to calculate rain and snow conditions, Stevens said his is the first study to use more precise weather radar

data. It was able to distinguish how hard the rain or snow was falling to come up with results showing an increase in fatal crashes even in rain of less than one-tenth of an inch per hour. "People slow down when it starts to rain heavily, but I think they underestimate the risk of light rain," Stevens said Tuesday. With moderate rain the risk of fatal car crashes is 75% more than in nice weather, Stevens said, and with heavy rain it's nearly two-and-a-half times more risky. □

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Showtime: 18th Tribeca opens in Harlem with 'The Apollo'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The 18th Tribeca Film Festival moved uptown on Wednesday for an opening night that honored an elder New York institution: the Apollo Theater. Roger Ross Williams' "The Apollo" premiered at the iconic Harlem music hall whose 85-year history is chronicled in Williams' documentary. The movie and setting added up to a gala tribute to the 125th Street mecca of African American culture, where everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to James Brown to Chris Rock has come to forge their legacies.

"The story of black people in America is the story of the Apollo," Williams said in an interview ahead of the premiere.

Tribeca isn't the first New York film festival to uproot to the Apollo for a special event. Lincoln Center's New York Film Festival came there last year to debut Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk." But Tribeca, the festival founded by Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal, has made a habit of celebrating the city's cultural institutions on opening night through documentaries about "Saturday Night Live" and the Metropolitan



This image released by the Tribeca Film Festival shows a scene from Roger Ross Williams' "The Apollo," which will kick off the annual festival on April 24.

Museum of Art.

"In these disturbing times, when the administration is promoting divisiveness and racism, we're making a statement by being here tonight that we reject it," said De Niro, a well-known critic of President Donald Trump, introducing the film on the Apollo stage. "No, you don't! Not in this house, not on this stage!"

"The Apollo," which HBO will air in the fall, surveys the theater's expansive history but also its vibrant present. It follows the production of Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me," a production that Apollo president Jonelle Procope says perfectly re-

flects the theater's mission for the future.

"We want to develop this new 21st century performing arts canon that focuses on telling the African American and African diaspora stories," said Procope. "We are really the only performing arts organization in the country that is from a performing arts standpoint focused on the African American narrative. Our legacy is to create opportunities for emerging talent and nurture their talent and let them push the envelope." Opened in 1914 as a burlesque theater, the Apollo began catering to the black community in the 1930s. Its famed Amateur

Night, begun in 1934, has been the first introduction of countless stars, including Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder (introduced as a 12-year-old "genius") and the Supremes.

Amateur night remains the signature Apollo show: a crucible through which endless performers have had to pass to confirm their talent. Anyone lacking will hear it from the audience. In Williams' film, Dave Chappelle is seen saying his Apollo experience was the best thing that ever happened to him. "After that, I was fearless," says Chappelle.

"I grew up in the black church and there's a very

similar dialogue that happens, the call and the response," said Williams. "The Apollo, in a sense, is church. It's a sacred space and a gathering of community in Harlem."

The Apollo's history can be staggering. Through its doors have come Duke Ellington, Sam Cooke, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Smokey Robinson and Richard Pryor. James Brown recorded one of the most revered live albums at the Apollo.

"When we first watched the film, I had this gut-wrenching emotional reaction. I was just crying like a baby," said Williams. "The journey that black people have taken in America is a painful and difficult journey and our music is one of the tools we use to talk about that pain, to talk about that oppression, to escape from that pain. Our musical journey is a powerful one."

With such an overwhelming legacy, the Apollo has striven to be more than a museum. After falling on hard times in the 1970s, it was named a state and city landmark in 1983. It was purchased by New York State in 1991 and turned into a nonprofit theater. Its long-running variety show "Showtime at the Apollo" was most recently rebooted on Fox last year. □

Diddy opens up about the death of soul mate Kim Porter

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs has opened up about life after the sudden death of his soul mate, former girlfriend Kim Porter. The music mogul posed with his six children on the cover of Essence magazine's 49th anniversary May issue. In excerpts posted online, Combs offered his gratitude for the outpouring of love after Porter's passing on Nov. 15, 2018 from complications from pneumonia. Porter is the mother of three of his children, 21-year-old Christian and 12-year-old twin girls Jesse and D'Lila. Combs told the magazine he has learned to be a more attentive father in the aftermath of his grief. "Before this, I was a part-time father, you know? My family was always first, but there are countless

times when I chose work over everything else," he said. "But every day I can hear her telling me to go and spend some time with the kids and make sure everybody's all right, like she would do. I'm just a lot more present, and, most important, now my kids come before anything else in my life."

Three days before she died, according to Combs, she was sick with the flu and "sent the kids over to my house so they wouldn't get sick." He recalled one night, when he went to check on her, "she was like, 'Puffy, take care of my babies.' She actually said that to me before she died."

He said he went into "mommy mode" after Porter's death, trying desperately to make sure the kids wouldn't hear about it online or on the news.

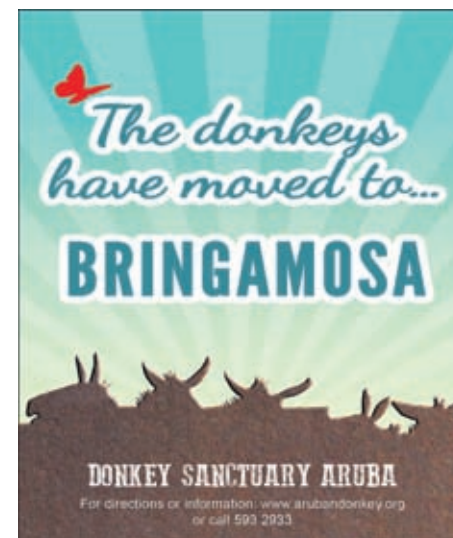
"Every time Kim and I talked, it was about the kids," Combs said. "It was what she cared about the most."

The magazine hits newsstands on Friday. □



This cover image released by Essence shows Sean "Diddy" Combs, background center, posing with his children, from left, Quincy, 27, Jesse, 12, Christian, 21, Chance, 12, D'Lila, 12, and Justin, 25, on the digital edition of the 49th anniversary issue of "Essence."

Associated Press



'This Is Us' star Chrissy Metz finds her film 'Breakthrough'

By **MIKE CIDONI LENNOX**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chrissy Metz says she believed in miracles well before getting the call to meet producer DeVon Franklin to discuss taking the lead in director Roxann Dawson's just-released faith-based drama "Breakthrough." Metz was already familiar with the film's story of Joyce Smith, whose son, John,

fell through ice on a lake in January 2015 and was drowning for 15 minutes before paramedics even started resuscitation efforts. By the time the boy was in the emergency room, he had gone so long without a pulse that doctors were ready to call time of death. But Smith wouldn't accept it. She was given permission to pray at her son's feet as a last attempt at CPR was



In this April 4, 2019 file photo, Chrissy Metz poses for a portrait in promotion of her new film "Breakthrough" at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles.

ing, making what Metz called "a strong recovery" — and provided inspiration for her daughter's portrayal of Joyce.

"To play, wholeheartedly, a woman who believes in miracles, you have to believe in miracles to some degree, I think," explained Metz, who didn't connect with the real-life Smith until two weeks into filming.

"I felt like I already knew her," Metz noted. "I watched her on TV. I read her book, 'The Impossible.'" But making the one-on-one contact did inform her performance. "Meeting her, you can't help but realize she has been through hell and back, and is better for it." Three years ago, the 38-year-old Metz was perhaps the least-known of the seven original "This Is Us" leads. And while each in the cast has landed extracurricular gigs since the acclaimed and popular series' 2016 debut, Metz is the first to be top-billed in a major studio theatrical release. □

performed — and, much to everyone's surprise, John's pulse returned. And, eventually, he fully recovered from the accident. Metz recalled her first meeting about the film adaptation with producer Franklin and executives from distributor 20th Century Fox. "I thought we were just generally meeting, and then I ended up sharing the story of my mother's medical emergency." In 2017, Metz's mother, Denise, suffered a massive stroke, and even in front of

her mother, doctors were openly pessimistic about a return to quality life. Metz recalled her fury. "I told those doctors, 'You might think you know my mom, but you don't know my mom. And you don't know what she's capable of ... So, if you don't have anything nice or positive to say, you need to actually leave my mother's room,'" she said. "And then, of course, we come to find out that Joyce said those things to John's doctors." Metz's mom is home, walk-

Review: Jon Land's fans are in for another wild ride

By **BRUCE DESILVA**
Associated Press

"Strong as Steel" (Forge), by Jon Land
Jon Land's insubordinate, trigger-happy Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong is back again in another action-packed thriller in "Strong as Steel."

This is the sort of thing you might get if Dr. Frankenstein sewed John Wayne's head onto Wonder Woman's body, gave the fearsome creature an unlimited supply of bullets and dropped it into "The Da Vinci Code." In the first 40 pages, the following events unfold in rapid succession:

A freighter with a crew of dead men smashes into a dock at the Turkish Port of Ordu.

A bride and groom are gunned down at a drug cartel wedding in Mexico. A team of assassins wipes out the crew of a railroad



This cover image released by Forge shows "Strong As Steel," by Jon Land.

Associated Press

train in Texas and swipes three crates from a freight car. Caitlin's lover, reformed criminal Cort Wesley Masters, single-handedly rescues a Homeland Security operative on the brink of execution in Venezuela.

And Caitlin, with only her

sidearm, outguns a team of professional mercenaries armed with automatic weapons and RPGs.

All of this, it turns out later, has something to do with the bubonic plague, a secret religious order that employs violence to protect the one true faith and a stone ossuary that may or may not contain the bones of Jesus Christ.

By the novel's conclusion, Land manages to pull these disparate elements together.

For the uninitiated, Caitlin is a fifth-generation Texas Ranger. As always in this series, the plot has links to an old case investigated by one of her ancestors, and the cartoonish portrayals of violence resemble what might happen if Quentin Tarantino and Marvel's creator of Venom got wasted on cocaine and put their heads together. □

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AVENGERS: ENDGAME

PH MON-FRI 4:05 | 4:35 | 7:50 | 8:20
SAT-SUN 12:50 | 4:05 | 4:35 | 7:50 | 8:20

PH MON-THU 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20
FRI 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20 | 10:30
SAT 12:50 | 3:05 | 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20 | 10:30
SUN 12:50 | 3:05 | 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20

PBP MON-FRI 4:55 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 4:55 | 8:40

PBP **CXC**
MON-SUN 3:45 | 7:30

PBP MON-THU 6:30
FRI 6:30 | 10:10
SAT 2:45 | 6:30 | 10:10
SUN 2:45 | 6:30

SPANISH
MON-FRI 4:55 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 4:55 | 8:40

LEO ALDANA | DANIELA ALVARADO
SOLTERAS INDISPONIBLES

SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-SUN 6:15 | 9:10

LINDA CARDELLINI | RAYMOND CRUZ
THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30
FRI 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:45
SAT 1:45 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:45
SUN 1:45 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30

PBP MON-THU 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

PBP MON-THU & SUN 8:35
FRI-SAT 8:35 | 10:50

ZACHARY LEVI | MICHELLE BORTH
SHAZAM!

PH MON-SUN 9:20

PBP **SPANISH**
MON-FRI 5:45
SAT-SUN 2:55 | 5:45

CHRISSY METZ | TOPHER GRACE
BREAKTHROUGH

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40

PBP MON-SUN 9:15

REGINA HALL | ISSA RAE
Little

PBP MON-FRI 4:15 | 6:45
SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:45

COLIN FARRELL | MICHAEL KEATON
DUMBO

PBP MON-FRI 3:45
SAT-SUN 1:15 | 3:45

OPENING MAY 2: UGLY DOLLS, THE INTRUDER, LONG SHOT

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Street art of Nipsey Hussle in LA breathes life into legacy

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Along busy highways, on the sides of buildings and inside a school basketball court, more than 50 colorful murals of Nipsey Hussle have popped up in Los Angeles since the beloved rapper and community activist was gunned down outside his clothing store.

Some show the rapper gazing into the sky or bowing his head. One has him standing with angel wings. Others include inspiring quotes. The street artists who created the work said they want his legacy to grow and his entrepreneurial spirit to live on.

"He wasn't the biggest star, but I knew his music. His passing led me to rediscover him under a completely new light," said Levi Ponce, who created an elaborate blue, black and white mural on 26-foot-building with Hussle's image in one day. A lyric from his song "Victory Lap" was written above his head. Hussle was fatally shot on March 31 while standing outside The Marathon, his South Los Angeles clothing store, not far from where he was raised.

"As a muralist, my philosophy is that we can do our part today with what we



In this April 17, 2019 photo, mural artist Gustavo Zermeno Jr. walks on a basketball court mural he dedicated to slain rapper Nipsey Hussle in Los Angeles.

have now," Ponce said. "In my case, I'm a painter and paint in the streets. Nipsey was able to give it on a greater scale. He went out of his way to help the community. For me, that's motivation and inspiration. So I had to get my paint on the walls right away after hearing the sad news."

Eric R. Holder Jr., who has been charged with killing Hussle, has pleaded not guilty. Police have said Holder and Hussle had several interactions the day of

the shooting and have described it as being the result of a personal dispute.

The death of the 33-year-old Hussle sent a shock wave through the hip-hop community and beyond. Fans poured out adoration for a man whose career hit new heights with "Victory Lap," his first studio album that earned a Grammy nomination after he released much sought-after mixtapes for a decade. He was an up-and-coming rapper and beloved figure

for his philanthropic work that went well beyond the usual celebrity "giving back" ethos.

After he passed away, Hussle's peers, from Jay-Z to Snoop Dogg, along with political and community leaders, were quick and effusive in their praise using words. For Ponce and others, paint was how they paid homage.

"The world is uniting because of him. You can see the revival of all the murals going up," said Nick

Ansom, CEO of the Venice Basketball League. He spearheaded a project to create the Nipsey Hussle Memorial Basketball Court at the nonprofit charter school Crete Academy, a few blocks from Hussle's clothing store.

The basketball court is painted blue with a checkered border and a side view of Hussle at midcourt. Ansom said he felt the urge to push forward the initiative to create a basketball court mural in honor of Hussle as a "thank you" to the rapper who he says was "starting to reach his peak." He and his partner, Michael McLeod, drove around South Los Angeles looking for possible schools before Crete Academy founder-principal Hattie Mitchell agreed to embrace the idea.

Afterward, Ansom drew his vision for the mural on paper and called artist Gustavo Zermeno Jr. to design it. He said about 40 people gathered to paint and touch up the mural in a week's time frame. Hussle's father and sister attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil it just days after the rapper's public memorial service, which drew more than 20,000 people to Staples Center. □

J.J. Cale's posthumous album is vital and inviting

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

J.J. Cale, "Stay Around" (Because Music)

J.J. Cale's "Stay Around" is a posthumous collection of 15 previously unreleased tracks that is as authentic as any of the original and compilation albums he's released over his long career.

Cale, who passed away in 2013, was held in very special esteem by many illustrious musicians, the kind of admiration that led to a 2014 tribute album recorded by Eric Clapton, whose early cover of Cale's "After Midnight" was fundamental to both their careers. Tom Petty, Willie Nelson and Mark Knopfler were also part of the tribute al-



This cover image released by Because Music shows "Stay Around," the latest release by J.J. Cale.

Associated Press

bum. It took the Oklahoma native well over a decade to release his first solo album, in 1972, and whatever changed by the slightest of degrees over the following decades, some things stayed quite the same — his relaxed but precise sound, a devotion to his trademark country-blues shuffle and the seemingly effortless atmosphere of his voice and grooves.

Compiled from a huge accumulation of recordings by longtime manager Mike Kappus and Christine Lakeland — Cale's wife and occasional collaborator — one of the pleasures of "Stay Around" is its judicious song selection, which stretches from Cale's legendary one-man stu-

dio creations and gentle acoustic songs to full-band takes and even some banjo playing.

There's excellence at both ends of the spectrum — and everything in between. Recorded in the kitchen, the persevering "If We Try" is just voice and guitar and squeaky chair, while "Chasing You" benefits from the live drums and group sound. The Latin-tinged "Maria" could be a lost Drifters tune and the restlessness on "Winter Snow" is accompanied by audible and claustrophobic buzz.

"Stay Around" may be, strictly speaking, an archival release, but it feels as vital and inviting as Cale usually did. □

HUBLOT



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